

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 11, 2004. Claims 1-27 remain pending. Claims 1, 6, 13-16, 18, and 20-22 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that the present application is in condition for allowance except for a formal matter. In particular, the Office Action objects to amended Fig. 2 filed on November 6, 2003 because, according to the Office Action, the figure includes reference signs not mentioned in the specification.

The specification has been amended above to insert therein the applicable reference signs and their definitions.¹ The features represented by those reference signs are supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed, at least in original Fig. 2.

Accordingly, it is believed that the objection to Fig. 2, set forth in the Office Action, has been overcome, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The amendment made herein is merely formal in nature, and its entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

¹/ As discussed during a telephone conversation between the undersigned representative and the Examiner on February 6, 2004, the statement "f - an extreme point (e coincides with d in the drawing) . . .", appearing at page 17 of the Amendment filed on November 6, 2003, should have read "f - an extreme point (e coincides with f in the drawing) . . ."

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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